

SRS Citizens Advisory Board Chair Update

D. N. Bridges- Chair
October 30, 2012
Augusta, GA



Welcome



- Welcome to Augusta.
- Happy Halloween.

CAB Support Team- A New Look

- New Support Contractor- NOVA (FY 2013)
 - Ashley Whitaker - Administrator for CAB (Lead)
 - James Tanner- Meeting Coordinator
 - Jesslyn Anderson- Committee Information Coordinator
- Ashley will also continue as Facilitator.
- NOVA replaces V3 Contractor.

CAB Membership Update

- Member selection is underway.
- An Update on the Numbers:
 - 25 members
 - 9 members seeking reappointment
 - 5 potential new members
- Travis Johnson and Mary Davis have declined to reapply.
- Thanks to Travis, Mary, and Gerald Wadley for their service this term.

CAB Membership Update: Schedule


- New membership applications go to HQ in October.
- Selections are typically approved early in new year.
- Process is not completed normally by January meeting time.
- New members will commence participation in March 2013.

Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board



- Since last full Board Meeting Sept. 2012.
 - No committee meetings
 - Next Committee Meetings
 - Nov. 7 - Strategic and Legacy Mgmt.
 - Nov. 13 - Waste Management
 - Dec. 4 - Fac. Disposition & Site Rem.
 - Dec. 11- Nuclear Materials

Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs)

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- SRS Citizens Advisory Board one of 8 SSABs.
 - SSAB Sites: Hanford Oak Ridge Portsmouth
Paducah Northern New Mexico
Idaho Nevada Savannah River Site
 - Most recent Meeting: October 2-3, 2012
(Washington, DC)
 - Meeting Comments:
 - Good Program and Budget updates.
 - Developed Input to EM from the collective group of SSABs on four areas:
 - Potential Mission Expansion for WIPP.
 - Separate the DP Waste streams from Commercial HLW.
 - Place more emphasis/focus on recycling materials.
 - Maintain funding for cleanup technology R&D.

Other Items of Interest

- Attended Leadership Community Forum in Aiken on September 27.
 - Approximately 50-75 local civic and political leaders attended.
 - Dr. Moody – Overview of Enterprise SRS
 - D. Dearolph, NNSA
 - D. Wilson, SRNS
 - D. Olson, SRR
 - Others
 - Good Outreach and Interchange

Other Items of Interest

- Attended Tank 18 & 19 Closure Celebration on October 1.
- Impressive Ceremony:
 - Sen. L. Graham, Featured Speaker
 - D. Moody, D. Olson, etc.
 - Many other dignitaries
 - CAB Community was well-represented.
 - Shelly Wilson, DHEC
 - Rob Pope, EPA
 - Van Keisler, DHEC
 - Aiken DHEC Representative
 - SRS DDFOs
- Handout of Concrete Paperweights.



SSAB Letters to EM

Draft Chairs' Recommendation
October 3, 2012

The EM SSAB has noted with considerable interest and support that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) has been remarkably successful in disposing of transuranic waste (TRU) throughout the DOE complex for approximately ten years. The success of the TRU waste program is among DOE's most notable achievements during this time frame.

The EM SSAB is also aware that the mission of the WIPP is being assessed for possible expansion to include disposal of some surplus plutonium from defense programs weapons production activities and certain other nuclear waste such as Greater-Than-Class-C Waste from NRC-related programs.

The success and activity of the WIPP program represents an opportunity for the DOE to make still further progress in addressing some of DOE's legacy waste streams.

The EM SSAB encourages the DOE to evaluate additional storage and disposal options for DOE legacy waste that could result from an expansion of the WIPP disposal mission.

For example, one specific test program that would support this concept involves shipment of a small number of SRS Defense Waste Processing Facility Canisters from SRS to WIPP for storage and evaluation for disposal. Such a test program would permit DOE to evaluate significant issues in DOE's complex-wide high-level waste disposition program such as:

- Shipment container development issues

- Packaging and shipment/receipt issues for both the shipper and the receiver

- Other transportation issues

- Dealing with consent-based approvals

It is the intent of this test program to provide valuable input and to serve as a precursor for the DOE program for the disposal of DOE's high-level waste.

SSAB Letters to EM



Draft Chairs' Recommendation

October 3, 2012

The EM SSAB would like to offer one recommendation that should increase the effectiveness and timeliness of addressing the disposal of DOE high-level waste.

It is recommended that DOE work with other national leaders to separate the disposition programs for the Defense Program high-level waste and the commercial nuclear industry high-level waste.

The DOE high-level waste program is at a more advanced stage relative to disposition than the commercial nuclear power industry waste-disposal program. For example, DOE presently has over 3,000 canisters at SRS awaiting the next step in the disposition process. Further, the waste form characterization and content is well known and understood. The same will be true for the waste forms in canisters that will be produced at Hanford and Idaho.

Also, the amount of DOE high-level waste is only 10% of the commercial nuclear volume. It is the intent of this recommendation to afford DOE an opportunity to address a much reduced quantity of high-level waste with well known forms. Disposition of the smaller volume in this manner could serve as an excellent learning tool for addressing the commercial high-level waste- disposition program.



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The EM budget is composed of several components, including costs to maintain the EM complex in a safe 'operations ready' state, out-year compliance costs to meet future regulatory milestones, current-year compliance costs to meet regulatory milestones in the current fiscal year and other costs not directly tied to regulatory milestones.

Included in these costs is funding for the development of new technology that will improve the productivity of cleanup projects across the complex. The enhanced solvent for the Salt Waste Processing Facility at SRS is an example of a successful R&D project.

As the current federal budgeting activities continue to constrain EM cleanup activities, the EM SSAB recommends that DOE not constrain funding in areas of technology research and development. The EM SSAB recognizes that without innovative solutions for the future, the cost and timing of cleanup projects could jeopardize compliance with regulatory milestones and extend cleanup costs beyond reasonable expectations.



SSAB Letters to EM

Draft Chairs' Recommendation

October 3, 2012

The EM SSAB recommends that DOE place more emphasis and priority on evaluating technologies that could make recycling excess materials cost effective. Decontaminating these materials for resale can have many positive benefits:

- Saving space in onsite CERCLA disposal cells
- Adding more dollars for cleanup from the sale of excess
- Reducing cumulative environmental insult
- Reducing long-term monitoring and stewardship costs

To facilitate continuous cost-effective recycling, the EM SSAB recommends that DOE identify and establish a national recycling center of excellence, incentivize contractors to recycle and repurpose items, and add a recycling and repurposing element to future Requests for Proposals.

Items of Interest: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

- WIPP is disposal facility for Transuranic Waste (TRU Waste).
- TRU waste is waste containing heavy nuclide elements (elements heavier than uranium- exceedingly long half-lives).
- WIPP is a facility in NM (over 2000 ft. deep) with series of tunnels underground in salt deposit for radioactive material disposition.
 - SRS and most of other DOE sites ship TRU to WIPP
 - WIPP is now being assessed for additional capability: Pu disposition and other radioactive waste (remotely handled). (Now **Active**)
- CAB has recommended consideration of WIPP for some or all of SRS canisters.
- Asking that WIPP personnel brief the CAB.

Environmental Justice

- Environmental Justice meeting in Washington in Spring 2013.
- Rose Hayes has expressed an interest in presenting a paper.
- Trip is on hold for now due to budget constraints.

The Times- They Are Changing

- It is likely that SRS CAB will be confronted with a few cost cutting measures.
- Something that we all have to deal with in the budget environment of 2013.
- Likely Measures include:
 - Non staffing of Research Associate
 - Number of Meetings away from Site.
 - Other aspects of CAB- travel, etc.
- DOE has final say on cuts, rationale, etc.

SRS Citizens Advisory Board Emphasis for this Year



- Focus:
 - More input from each CAB member.
 - More public involvement.
 - More recommendations to DOE.
- Advise us of your interests.
 - Outside speakers/topics/insights you want to see.



CAB Membership: A Responsibility

- As Citizens Advisory Board members you have:
 - The Mandate
 - The Opportunity
- To Represent the interests and the views of the people of South Carolina and Georgia.
- Focus your thinking and views on how you can best carry out that role.
- Continually ask yourself, “Am I doing the best I can to represent my fellow citizens?”